

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW
SUBJECT: INITIAL GDR REACTION TO THE FRG BUNDESTAG
DEBATE

1. IN AN ARTICLE BY BONN CORRESPONDENT DIETER WOLF, SED
PARTY ORAGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND JAN. 20 COVERED THE FIRST DAY
OF THE FRG BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS,
WITH SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENT, PARTICULARLY ON
STATEMENTS MADE BY CDU REPRESENTATIVES. WOLF WRITES THAT
CDU REP. WERNER MARX ARGUED FOR TURNING THE PRINCIPLES OF
HELSINKI AROUND BY DEMANDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE
STEPPING UP OF "INFLAMMATORY" BROADCASTS FROM THE FRG.

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WOLF FURTHER REPORTS THAT CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL'S SPEECH
WAS CHARACTERIZED BY "MEASURELESS AGITATION" AGAINST
THE GDR. ACCORDING TO WOLF, ENTIRE PASSAGES OF
KOHL'S SPEECH WERE REMINISCENT OF THE COLD WAR ERA,
ESPECIALLY HIS ENCOURAGEMENT OF PROVOCATIONS AGAINST
THE GDR BORDER. KOHL'S STATEMENTS CULMINATED
ACCORDING TO WOLF IN THE "REVANCHIST" CALL FOR THE RE-

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRO-WAR GERMAN REICH IN A
WESTERN EUROPE DOMINATED BY WEST GERMAN IMPERIALISM.

2. TREATING SCHMIDT'S REMARKS IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS
ARTICLE, WOLF REPORTS THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD
EMPAHSIZED STABILITY IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCES, AND
QUOTES SCHMIDT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FRG IS DETER-
MINED TO PURSUE ITS POLICIES TOWARD THE GDR IN SPITE OF
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES. HE FURTHER
QUOTES SCHMIDT AS STATING THAT THE FRG IS PROCEEDING
FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT BOTH SIDES ARE INTERESTED IN
DEVELOPING RELATIONS AND HOPES TO ACHIEVE
A "RELATIVE MEASURE OF NORMALIZATION."

3. WOLF CRITICIZES SCHMIDT, HOWEVER, FOR ATTEMPTING
TO MEASURE THE GDR AGAINST A "LIST OF SINS"
(SUENDENREGISTER). FOR WOLF, THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO
DIVERT ATTENTION FROM FRG ACTIVITIIES IN VIOLATION OF
ITS TREATIES, PARTICULARLY PRACITES OF THE FRG
PERMANENT REPRESNETATION IN EAST BERLIN. WOLF STATES
THAT THE FRG SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN ESTABLISHING THE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION THERE WAS NO PROVISION FOR
THE REPRESENTATION TO GIVE COUNSEL TO GDR CITIZENS. HE
CONCLUDES THAT ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD AMOUNT TO
AN INTERFERENCE IN THE GDR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. WOLF REPORTS SCHMIDT'S STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF
CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. ON CSCE,
WOLF REPORTS THAT SCHMIDT EMPHASIZED HIS INTENTION
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TO COORDINATE WITH THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE.

5. COMMENT: THE GDR HAS HELD OFF ON AUTHORITATIVE
COMMENTARY ON THE BUNDESTAG DEBATE AFTER ITS FIRST
DAY. WOLF'S ARTICLE, WHILE LONG FROM DEFINITIVE, DOES
INCLUDE WHAT WILL PROBABLY BE THE GDR APPROACH: BROAD-
SIDE ATTACKS AT THE CDU AND A MIXTURE OF
PRAISE AND CRITICISM FOR SCHMIDT. WE HAVE HEARD
FROM SEVERAL GDR SOURCES THAT THE GDR HAS BEEN DIS-
APPOINTED BY WHAT THEY SEE AS THE LACK OF A STRONG
INTEREST BY SCHMIDT IN PURSUING "REALISTIC" FRG POLI-
CIES TOWARED THE GDR.

6. WE NOTE THAT NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AVOIDED MENTION-
ING SCHMIDT'S CRITICISM OF THE GDR DECISION TO OUST
FRG CORRESPONDENT LOTHAR LOEWE. IT ALSO DID NOT
REPEAT HIS DEFENSE OF THE FRG REPRESENTATION IN EAST
BERLIN NOR HIS DISPLEASURE AT THE GDR'S REFUSAL TO
ALLOW NUMBERS OF WEST GERMAN AND WEST BERLIN CITIZENS

TO ENTER THE GDR ON THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 15. ALSO
AVOIDED IS SCHMIDT'S CAHRACTERIZATION OF ALL OF THESE
GDR ACTIONS AS STEMMING FROM A LACK OF INTERNAL
SELF-CONFIDENCE. POLANSKY

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